

Lead Entity Advisory Group
September 8, 2003
Seatac, WA
Summary Notes

LEAG

Attendance:

Members:

Jay Watson, Hood Canal Coordinating Council
Steve Martin, Asotin Conservation District
Shirley Solomon, Skagit Watershed Council, Chair
John Sims, Quinault Nation LE
Doug Osterman, King County WRIA 9, Vice Chair
Paul Dorn, Kitsap County LE
Scott Jungblom, Pend Oreille CD LE

Others

Present:

Other Lead Entities & Sponsors:

Kristi Silver, King County WRIA 8
Amy Hatch Winecka, Mason Thurston CDs
Roy Huberd, Pierce County
Ernie Lyson, Quinault LE Citizen
Neil Aaland, Ecology
Jim Kramer, Shared Strategy
Chris Drivdahl, GSRO
Carol Smith, Conservation Commission

Staff:

Jim Fox, IAC/SRFB
Carole Richmond, IAC/SRFB
Rollie Geppert, IAC/SRFB
Kristi Lynett, WDFW
Brian Walsh, WDFW
Tim Smith, WDFW

LEAG

Members

Absent:

Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, excused

Introductions

Round table introductions.

Chair Report

Shirley welcomed everyone and reminded them that she, along with Jeff Breckel and Steve Martin, sit on the Issues Task Force, and if LE Coordinators had comments or concerns to share with the ITF, Shirley would convey them at the next ITF meeting.

Staff Report

Brian Walsh &
Kristi Lynett
WDFW

Brian and Kristi met with Shirley last month to discuss ways to ensure LEAG is effective and proactive. We drafted a LEAG meeting cycle schedule that will layout predictable and regular meetings that address upcoming SRFB topics. Brian agreed to refine the cycle to ensure that conflicts with weekends and holidays are eliminated (See "One-Month

Cycle for SRFB Meetings" document)

Kristi reminded all to please submit your organization's latest audit to WDFW, if you have not already done so.

Jim Fox
IAC/SRFB

While it is too early to discuss the '05-07 budget, it is never too early to show legislators the good work your LE and sponsors are doing. Invite them to visit sites, tours, meetings, etc.

Jim announced that the House Capital Budget Committee is holding a hearing on September 18 on "working for salmon recovery.

**Regional
Boards SRFB
Funding
Request**

At the invitation of LEAG, Chris Drivdahl of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office presented the proposed funding request for the regional salmon recovery boards. Chris said work plans for the funding request and recommendation are not available, but that GSRO would ensure that they are done, and that LEAG would be given the opportunity to review them. The expected overall deliverables are draft recovery plans for 4 of the regions by June-2005. She said that this would be the last request and allocation to Regions, except for perhaps the Mid-Columbia. Chris did not know the source of the \$5.1 million allocation, except that it is all federal and does impact project money. Concern was expressed about this funding allocation for Regions potentially diminishing the capital funding available for habitat project implementation (reducing the funding available under the SRFB 5th Funding Cycle). If the SRFB capital pot of money is the source for the Region funding, the ability of local watersheds to obtain funding for projects is reduced. Chris indicated that no input from LEAG is being requested.

**5th Round
Issues Task
Force Update**

The bulk of the LEAG meeting agenda was devoted to reviewing the proposed guidance for Lead Entity strategies. Specifically, we focused our discussion on the core strategy document as contained in Attachment II of the draft materials distributed by the Issues Task Force. There was general agreement that strategies should be as detailed, specific, and focused as possible. However, there was no agreement on the merits and feasibility of identifying "priority areas", as described in the document. Some groups are using VSP (Viable Salmonid Population) methodology to prioritize watershed processes that do not easily lend themselves to reach level identification. A concern was expressed that existing strategies have not been evaluated, nor feedback obtained from anyone regarding the responses by Lead Entities to the "12 Questions." This was urged as important to help answer the question, "How do we improve strategies."

Additional discussion occurred on the role of the State Tech Panel. LEAG members strongly supported a stronger technical assistance role for the Tech Panel. This was identified as an immediate need. A summary of the LEAG meeting was provided to the Issues Task Force by the LEAG

Chair at the ITF meeting on September 11.

**Limiting
Factors
Statewide
Report
Update**

Carol Smith was invited to the LEAG meeting to talk about the LFA statewide roll-up. Carol explained the purpose and benefits of the product and she offered LEAG members an opportunity to participate in review of the draft document when it becomes available. In response to concerns expressed by Lead Entities, Carol provided some clarification regarding how information will be represented in map form (data will remain at sub-basin scale, and not diluted to WRIA level). New data and technical information will not be sought or incorporated into the statewide report, although if new assessments or data has been collected, Carol will reference those studies and reports in an appendix of the Statewide report.

Carol was asked about LE strategies from her vantage point as a Technical Panel member. She said they needed to be flexible because of different approaches used by watersheds, but that the more specific and focused, the better. She said it is tough when a whole watershed is a priority. For watersheds that are addressing processes, strategies should specifically identify processes that need to be addressed and where.

**NEXT MEETING
10 a.m.
October 9, 2003
Seatac, WA**